

II. REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1 to 51 and 76 to 85 will be pending. For the Examiner's convenience, a marked up copy showing the amendments to the claims is attached as Exhibit A.

Pursuant to the restriction requirement, the claims 52 to 75 are cancelled herein without disclaimer, and without prejudice to Applicants' pursuing prosecution of subject matter encompassed within one or more of claims 52 to 64 and 65 to 75 in an application claiming the benefit of priority of the subject application.

Claim 1 and 50 have been amended to insert the word "of", which inadvertently was omitted from the claims. As such, the amendments merely address a formality and, therefore, do not add new matter.

Claim 4 has been amended to correct a typographical error wherein the term "-239" (minus 239) was shown as --239. As such, the amendment does not add any new matter.

Claim 83 has been amended to insert the term "are", which inadvertently was omitted from the claim. As such, the amendment merely addresses a formality and, therefore, does not add new matter.

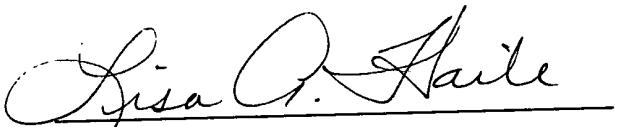
It is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance, and a notice to that effect is respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if there are any questions relating to this application.

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Although no fee other than that for the extension of time is deemed necessary in connection with the filing of this Amendment, if any additional fee is required, the Commissioner is authorized to charge any fee (or credit any overpayment) to Deposit Acct. No. 50-1355.

Respectfully submitted,



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EXHIBIT A

MARKED UP COPY SHOWING AMENDMENTS
TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Amended) A method for detecting a hepatic cell proliferative disorder, comprising: detecting a methylated CpG-containing glutathione-S-transferase (GST) nucleic acid in a hepatic specimen or biological fluid wherein a methylated GST nucleic acid is indicative of a hepatic cell proliferative disorder.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3, wherein the promoter region is approximately -539 to [-239] -239 upstream from the start site.

50. (Amended) The method of claim 40, further comprising detecting the presence of hepatitis B virus or hepatitis C virus.

83. (Amended) The primers of claim 81, wherein the primers are SEQ ID Nos: 1, 2, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, or 13 or any combination thereof.